



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
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## 03/21/2012 Minutes

Minutes for the ABAC meeting of March 21, 2012

Board members present were Christopher Tonkin, Stephan Miller, Scott Smith, Doug Greenfield and Ron Sender. Joey Glushko, Anthony Beckwith and Maggie Stanley were also present.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm.

\*Amended February minutes were accepted.

The TAC report. Scott informed us that there will be an open house informational meeting on the 75% design stage of the Mass. Ave. Redevelopment Project on Wednesday April 4 at 7 pm at the Hardy School. Comments can only be made about the changes from the previous design and the details of the landscaping.

Scott also told us about the Selectmen's meeting at which the designs for the CLAMP project were discussed. He felt that one of the problems those in attendance had with the preferred design is the loss of five parking spaces in front of Cambridge Savings Bank and the Veterans Club. There were also some objections to the curb extensions at the corners that make the crosswalks shorter. It was felt by some that the small gain in shortening the crosswalks was more than offset by the tightened turning radii of the corners. We spent considerable time discussing the design that was approved consisting of bike lanes on both sides of the street and no special provision for crossing the intersection. We considered the pluses and minuses of eliminating the parking on the east bound side of the street in front of the bank and the virtues of maintaining or eliminating the medians.

Recreational Trails Grant Program. Joey told us that the RFP for the project has been reworked and again put out for bid. Joey explained the scope of the project for the guests attending. She told us that the team has recently met to work on the design for the new bikeway map. They will need help this spring taking an inventory of the cross streets and access ramps to the bikeway. Some of us said that we would help when the time comes.

Summary of the Winter Social. Christopher told us that the social this year was the best attended one we have had. We all felt that the attendance was due to the quality of the speaker and the currency of the topic, not to mention the quality of the refreshments.

Bikeway cleanup. Stephan gave us a list of the organizations that will be notified when the cleanup is taking place. He will promote a less formal structure this year where anyone can pick up trash anywhere on the path, the only stipulation being that the filled bags are dropped off in a designated area. There will not be a rain date.

Planning Bike-Arlington Tour. Christopher is still waiting for permission to visit the boat club on the dam between the Mystic Lakes. Scott commented on the quality of the new Alewife Trail and his opinion on whether we could use it for the tour.

ABAC on the web. We discussed the problems with the Topica mailing list. It is still sending out messages but it is difficult or impossible to sign yourself onto the list. Doug will look into moving the ABAC list to another venue like Yahoo or Google.

Bike racks for Town Hall and Cambridge Savings Bank. Joey told us that the next bike racks to be installed will be adjacent to the Town Hall Annex and two racks in front of the Cambridge Savings Bank in Arlington Center. We briefly discussed the fact that this is the end of the funds for the rack installation project and what we should do next about adding bike racks.

Bike Safety Awareness Week, April 22-28. Joey told us that there are about ten communities involved in the local program to promote bike safety awareness. We still need some catchy and informative phrases for the sign board which will be set up (probably) in front of Town Hall.

Legal Handbook – Requirements/Responsibilities. Joey voiced a reminder that some of us have not yet taken the online ethics exam required for all state and local employees and volunteers. Completion requires the submission of a signed completion form.

Other. Response letter to the Bikes Misbehaving articles in the Advocate. We vented some and then settled down to discuss the kind of the letter we want to send. We were particularly disturbed by the one-sided nature of the article and that dissenting opinions were not invited. Each of us had suggestions about what should be said in our response letter. Ron was adamant that we should not be apologetic. He thought that we should mention our involvement in education and engineering and that we have always advocated for enforcement of the law. Christopher will re-craft the current letter and send it around for edits before the Monday deadline.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:07 pm.

\*Notes that a vote of the board was taken.

Minutes submitted by Stephan Miller